



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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FREDERICK COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today announced a new and improved way for residents to receive messages directly from public safety officials. The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will officially launch [ALERT Frederick County](#) on January 17, 2012, to allow government officials to send emergency messages to residents by telephone, e-mail, text message and other methods of communication.

The new system fulfills one of the board's strategic goals to enhance public safety by providing a coordinated effort during weather emergencies through improved communication between county, state and municipal agencies and by improving the capacity for citizens to subscribe to an information source that informs them of government actions.

Board President Blaine Young said, "This new alert system is a major step forward from the county's current notification method and an excellent way to start the New Year. Our thanks go to the Division of Emergency Management and our many partners who contributed to the development of this system. We're now going to be better prepared for emergencies as well as have a more efficient and responsible way to respond to crisis situations that arise. We encourage our citizens to register to receive these notices."

The county's previous "notify me" system on the county website had limited capabilities, and the new system, provided by [Everbridge](#), will allow users to choose the alerts they wish to receive and to self-manage their own accounts.

Messages may be targeted to internal groups of first responders, elected officials, government agencies and emergency organizations. Emergency management and public safety officials will be able to send fast and efficient mass notifications regardless of physical location. Officials will also be able to target messages to registered residents within a specific area, notifying only those who are directly impacted.

(more)

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Emergency messages will contain only vital information such as flash flood warnings, Amber Alerts, the status of county government, road closures and other notices.

In addition to emergency alerts, residents can chose to receive optional community updates that may be of interest.

Residents may get more information and register for ALERT Frederick County by visiting www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT. They must choose a username and password, provide an answer to a security question and accept the terms of use -- much like other secure Internet sites.

For additional information, contact Director Seamus Mooney, Emergency Preparedness Department, Division of Emergency Management, at 301-600-1418 or via e-mail at smooney@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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